



Mayor Brendan Duffy

Message from the Mayor

What an extraordinary space we are in. Economic growth

is coming to Horowhenua! We have fantastic statistical data that shows we are on a trajectory that we haven't seen since the 1970s.

It was an honour and privilege to host Prime Minister John Key here just before Easter. If it wasn't for the investment by the Government in the Wellington Northern Corridor as part of the Roads of National Significance projects, I seriously wonder where we may have been in time.

However, as direct results of these highway upgrades, we will really appeal to businesses looking for a strategic location, appeal to people considering commuting to Wellington and Kapiti, as well as retirees looking for lifestyle improvements.

Yes, we're about to see a growth explosion, as well as some superb initiatives and real confidence arising in Horowhenua.

Brendan

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Horowhenua economy set for transformation

Horowhenua's economy is set to transform from stagnation to significant growth.

Over the past 10 years 80% of territorial local economies (TLAs) grew faster than Horowhenua; and for employment growth the District was the fourth-slowest out of 66 TLAs.

However, one of New Zealand's leading economists Shamubeel Eaqub says Horowhenua is in the enviable position of being given an intervention and avoid becoming a "zombie town".

"But it's all about leveraging opportunities. If you can attract more people to the District, make it easier to live, easier to do business, the potential is big. It's a chance of a lifetime that is not going to happen again. It's like winning Lotto without having to buy a ticket," he said.

New Zealand Institute of Economic Development (NZIER) analysis shows that the Wellington Northern Corridor (WNC), a Roads of National Significance (RoNS) project, will be an "economic catalyst" for the Horowhenua District.

It will present long-term gains for Horowhenua. These gains will accumulate over time, but will be significant, including:

- 1000 additional jobs over the next 20 years.
- 10,000 more people over the next 20 years.
- 4000 more households over the next 20 years

The Wellington Northern Corridor will provide Horowhenua with a "fresh injection of economic potential", says Horowhenua District Council's Economic Development Manager Shanon Grainger.

"This is a free hit, or boost, for Horowhenua, as the infrastructure investment will be made by central government," he said.

"Horowhenua will attract more people to live and work, as they see the benefits of enjoying our rural lifestyle while having the convenience of Wellington being so accessible.

"More money flowing into the Horowhenua economy will drive business growth and urban development. There will be an increase in productivity as higher skilled labour is enticed to work here. More jobs and increased employment will help more people and families to prosper. Households with more job opportunities and more skills earn more income. Plus, there's the bonus that Horowhenua will benefit from enhanced reputation, as more people are attracted to the District."



NZ economist Shamubeel Eaqub speaking at the recent Horowhenua Business After 5.



Janine Smart

Message from the Foxton Community Board

You will have heard the great news that the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom project has been given the green light by Horowhenua District Council, with construction starting as soon as May. We also have sign-off on the Main St upgrade and are continuing to work hard at restoring healthy flow to the River Loop. These projects along with others are game-changers! It's finally Foxton's time!

We have also formed a new group called 'Friends of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom'. The object of this group is to inspire the community to become part of the project by helping to provide the best possible facility, thus promoting pride and ownership in the TANS facility and our town. The work of the Friends group will focus on community engagement and supporting fund-raising initiatives. We would welcome any and everyone to join us in whatever capacity they can.

If you are interested in hearing more, please contact me on 06 363 8264 or smartdesign@xtra.co.nz.



Sue Hori Te Pa

On the spot with one of the staff:

**Sue Hori Te Pa,
Governance and Executive
Team Leader**

Talofa lava. I have worked at Council for just over two years in the position of Governance and Executive Team Leader, having had a background in social services administration and project management. I provide executive assistant support for the Mayor and Chief Executive, and I am the link between elected members and Council staff. I also lead a team of two others and together we are responsible for ensuring the smooth organisation and running of Council and committee meetings. This includes preparing agenda documents, meeting set ups, supporting the meeting process and undertaking post-meeting tasks such as minutes and actions. I find Local Government very complex and always interesting.

If you have not attended a Council meeting I encourage you to come along. We welcome public attendance and it is a good way to be well informed about Council activities.

I have always lived in Levin and am proud of my family ties, fabulous friendships and great people who share the same love of our District that I have. I have two gorgeous daughters - Mariah who attends Victoria Uni, and Savannah who is Deputy Head Girl at Waiopahu College.

Contributing to the community is important to me and currently I am a member of Fale Pasifika Horowhenua. Our focus is to improve health, education and social outcomes for Pasifika people. I am particularly passionate about coordinating the annual Pasifika Youth Jandal Jam which involves over 100 young people in the show each August. The performers amaze me each year with their pride and enthusiasm for their culture, and fresh raw talent.



Students learning through Vocational Pathways partnerships with local industry.

Horowhenua education services add up

Education Horowhenua is pleased that increasing collaboration between local educators is resulting in innovative services being delivered throughout the District.

This became apparent when Education Horowhenua members were preparing for a recent briefing to Education Minister Hekia Parata, accompanied by local MP Nathan Guy.

Chairperson Bruce McIntyre says Education Horowhenua acts primarily as a forum for education service providers from early childhood to tertiary, together with Horowhenua District Council and business, community and government agencies.

Since its inception eight years ago, it has helped activate and foster numerous services such as the Horowhenua youth co-ordinator, the Teen Parenting Unit at Waiopahu College, Youth Driving Awareness Programme, the Vocational Pathways opportunities for secondary students in partnership with local industry, and the initiative funded by the JR McKenzie Trust to increase participation of Pasifika in early childhood centres.

Another recent example of a success story arising from the collaborative environment is Te Hinaki, a project to provide students, as well as their families, with access to digital devices outside of school hours.

Minister Parata acknowledged the achievements by Education Horowhenua, which she described as being a "passionate bunch of people working hard to ensure the District's young people are successful".

Deputy Mayor Garry Good says education is well-recognised as a crucial element in the wellbeing of the community.

"The visit by Ministers Parata and Guy was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate great things happening in the education space in Horowhenua."

Have your rates invoice emailed and be in to win a smartphone

One ratepayer signed up to receive their rates invoices via email will win a smartphone in a Horowhenua District Council promotion to encourage people to use the online service.

All ratepayers registered to receive their rates invoices by email by Friday 29 April will go into a draw to win a Samsung Galaxy S6 phone, donated by Spark.

Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton says emailing rates invoices has benefits for ratepayers as well as Council.

"By registering for emailed rates invoices ratepayers will not only enjoy the convenience of receiving an instant electronic record of their invoice, it also creates a more efficient and streamlined process for Council" he said.

"The more rates invoices that are emailed, the more ratepayers' money we will save - reducing the amount of printing costs, paper and envelopes used, as well as money spent on postage. If all ratepayers received their rates invoices by email, we

would save at least \$40,000 per year."

Mr Clapperton says that registering is simple and takes only a couple of minutes. Visit Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz and look under the 'Do it online' tab for the 'Rates Invoice by e-mail' link.

"In fact, the whole rates payment process can be completed online. You can receive your invoice by email and pay online using your credit card or debit card. You can also pay via an internet banking direct credit. Or, arrange a direct debit and we'll do all



Be in to win a Samsung Galaxy S6 smartphone.

the work for you. It is quick and simple and saves time."

For more info, visit the [Rating Information page on Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz).

Tell us about your rubbish

Horowhenua District Council is seeking your feedback on how you use available rubbish and recycling services, and has produced a short voluntary questionnaire.

There are eight questions, such as how your rubbish collected, how often and how much usually; also seeking your thoughts on future options, as well as an opportunity for you to make any further comments.

The questionnaire can be completed online via Council's website, or fill out a printed form available from Council's main office in Levin or its customer service centres at the Foxton and Shannon community libraries.

Levin's blackspot roundabout to be made safer



Horowhenua's blackspot intersection - the Bath Street/ Cambridge Street roundabout - is about to be improved in the interests of safety.

Horowhenua District Council's Roading Projects Engineer James Wallace says the Bath Street/ Cambridge Street roundabout is "a problem".

"This roundabout is one of the most dangerous intersections under Council's control. According to current crash data, there have been 21 reported crashes at this roundabout since 2010," he said.

"The combination of speeds through the intersection, poor visibility and a lack of safe pedestrian crossing points make this intersection a safety problem," he said.

Mr Wallace says Council has designed improvements for the roundabout, with physical works to start after Anzac Day.

"This will improve the safety of the intersection and reduce the frequency of crashes."





Forest and Bird's Dave Goodin with one of the new posts and labels. Also pictured are fellow volunteers Doug Johnston, Angelina and Ian McBrydie with Raymond Smith, 2, Joan Leckie and Barbara Littlejohns.

Notable trees receive 'mark of respect'

A project is underway to help people become aware of and appreciate notable trees throughout Horowhenua.

Working with Council, the Horowhenua branch of Forest and Bird is identifying notable trees throughout the District to be marked with a label on a post beside the tree.

Forest and Bird volunteer Dave Goodin says some were already identified as being on the notable register, but the labels on the posts did not include any details about the trees.

He says residents and visitors would find it of more value to learn what species of tree each one was, including its botanical name.

"It also a mark of respect for the trees; if we recognise heritage buildings, why not trees?" he said.

So far about a dozen trees have received new labels, including oak trees at the Levin Adventure Park, Levin Domain and Shannon School; a rata at Kimberley Reserve, a magnolia near the Levin Railway Station, and a pine tree in the forest at Waitare Beach.

"The big, old pine tree at Waiterere is a giant among giants. When you think about it, that tree would have experienced the June 1878 storm that saw the Hydrabad ship wrecked."

"The big, old pine tree at Waiterere is a giant among giants. When you think about it, that tree would have experienced the June 1878 storm that saw the Hydrabad ship wrecked. The Hydrabad is now completely buried in the sand, but that pine tree still stands available for all to see. Yes, some trees have seen so much history; if they could talk they could share some amazing stories," Mr Goodin said.

To be identified as notable, a tree must be nominated in writing by a member of the public and subsequently meet criteria and a certain score during assessment by an arborist. Some trees may not be notable for

being old, but for other reasons such as forming part of a stand of trees.

For more information on notable trees in the Horowhenua District, please visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz. A range of information can be found by typing 'notable trees' into the search bar at top right of the home page.

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

6 The next meeting is on Wednesday 6 April at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

18 The next meeting is on Monday 18 April at 6.30pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Brendan Duffy (Mayor) **Garry Good** (Deputy Mayor) **Victoria Kaye-Simmons**



Jo Mason **Tony Rush** **Piri-Hira Tukapua**



Wayne Bishop **Christine Mitchell** **Ross Brannigan**



Michael Feyen **Ross Campbell**

Foxton Community Board



Janine Smart (Chair) **David Roache** (Deputy Chair) **Tricia Metcalf**



Amanda Street **Basil Vertongen**